

## **CLAIMS**

What is claimed is:

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1. An implant insertion device comprising:

a handle;

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an insertion rod attached to said handle; and

an implant gripper attached to said insertion rod, said implant gripper including a gripping surface and a movable pin and a fixed pin extending from said gripping surface.

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2. The insertion device of claim 1, wherein said gripping surface is v-shaped.

3. The insertion device of claim 2, wherein said movable pin and said fixed pin are offset on said gripping surface by an angle of 30 degrees.

4. The insertion device of claim 1, wherein said movable pin and said fixed pin are smooth.

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5. The insertion device of claim 1, wherein said implant gripper is removably attached to said insertion rod.

6. A method of attaching an implant to an implant insertion device, comprising the steps of:

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(a) inserting a fixed pin of an implant gripper into an insertion pin hole of the implant; and

(b) inserting a movable pin of said implant gripper into a second insertion pin hole of the implant, thereby effectively reversibly locking the implant onto said device.

7. A method of detaching an implant from an implant insertion device, comprising the steps of:

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(a) detaching a movable pin of an implant gripper from an insertion pin hole of the implant; and

(b) detaching a fixed pin of said implant gripper from a second insertion pin hole of the implant.

5 8. A method of inserting an implant with an implant insertion device, comprising the steps of:

(a) attaching an implant to an implant insertion device by inserting a fixed pin of an implant gripper into an insertion pin hole of the implant, and inserting a movable pin of said implant gripper into a second insertion pin hole of the implant;

10 (b) inserting said implant in a spinal column; and

(c) detaching said implant from said implant insertion device by detaching said movable pin of said implant gripper from said second insertion pin hole of said implant, and detaching said fixed pin of said implant gripper from said insertion pin hole of the implant.

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